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## THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE GRAVESTONES AT SHELDON CHURCH

The church commonly called Sheldon Church was really the Parish Church of the Parish of Prince William. This parish was laid off as a separate and distinct parish in 1745. It formed a part of what was then Granville County and after the Revolution it fell into that part of Granville County which was reconstituted as Beaufort County. The ground on which the church edifice was constructed appears to have been given by Landgrave Edmund Bellinger (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Landgrave of the name) off of his Tomotley Barony. It was constructed on land adjacent or very near to the Sheldon plantation of Lieutenant Governor William Bull from which presumably the name commonly applied to the church. The date of first construction is uncertain but apparently it must have been practically finished by 1753 for in that year an Act was passed authorizing the Commissioners to sell the pews. Prior to the revolution the congregation was quite large for according to Dalcho at that time seldom less than 60 or 70 carriages of various descriptions were seen at the church on Sunday. A feature of the time mentioned by Dalcho was that Stephen Bull the son of the first and brother of the second Lieutenant Governor William Bull and who lived at Sheldon plantation usually invited as his guests on Sunday the more substantial part of the congregation, whilst his Overseer by his direction and at his expense entertained the rest.

The church building was destroyed by fire by the British under General Prevost in his advance against Charles Town in 1779. It remained in ruins until 1829 when it was rebuilt but in 1865 the church was again destroyed by fire by the invading army under Sherman. Since the last destruction it has never been rebuilt. The outside walls and the columns of the front portico still stand.

Its ruins and the old graveyard surrounding them are on the road from Port Royal Ferry to Purysburg about two miles west of Garden's corner and about four east of the station on the Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad called Sheldon. The

following inscriptions on the tombstones in the old graveyard were copied by Richard W. Hutson Esq the present clerk of the United States District Court.<sup>1</sup>

In memory of / John Maxwell Chisolm / who departed this life / on the 5th July 1848 / aged fifty years 1 month / 26 days /

To the memory of / Mrs. Sarah Glaze Chisolm / who died on the 10th / day of February 1815 / Et. 43 years / also her three children / George E 18 months / Jane E 8 years / Alfred E 5 years /

Here lies interred / the remains of / William Maxwell Chisolm / who died on the 3rd / of October 1804 / aged 8 years /

Here lies the remains of / Thomas Chisolm / who died on the 5th of July / 1801 / aged 14 months / also James Chisolm who / died on the 16th July 1801 /

To the memory of / Dr Alexander Robert Chisolm / eldest son of Robert Chisolm / who died on the 27th October 1827 / in the 33rd year of / his age./

Beneath this stone / lie the remains of / Ann Drayton / who died in the year 1766 in the 27th year of her age / Her exercise of every domestic / virtue as wife as mistress / as friend / (she aspired no higher) / Claimed this monument / of / his conjugal affection / and grief for her loss / from her sorrowing husband / Stephen Drayton./

[Coat of Arms]

Here lie the remains of / John Bull / youngest son of Stephen Bull / one of the Deputies of the Lords / Proprietors of Carolina / he died August the 16th 1767 / aged 74 years /

Martha D. Ferguson / died the 25th November 1840 / aged one year and / 9 days / "And of such is the kingdom of / Heaven."/

Mrs. Martha Jenkins / Wife of Micah Jenkins / January 1857 / How loved, how valued, once, avails us not. /

Sacred to the memory of / Mary M. Smith / ob. January 1st. 1795 aged 29 years / Lo where this silent marble weeps / A friend, a wife, a mother sleeps, / A heart within whose sacred cell / The peaceful virtues loved to dwell / Affection warm and faith sincere /

<sup>1</sup> The above historical sketch by Judge Henry A. M. Smith.

And soft Humanity warm were there / In agony in death resigned /  
/She felt the wound she left behind./

Sacred to the memory of / Thomas M. Williams / who departed  
this life / the 26th December 1851 / aged 53 years, 3 months &  
6 days / I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. /

Sacred to the memory of / Ephraim Mikell / Makay / . . .  
(remainder of inscription buried).

Sacred to the memory of / Mrs. Mary Gowen / who departed  
this life / December 24 1813 / aged 63 years /

In memory of / Ann Blake Heyward / who died 14th April  
1840 / aged 6 years and 8 months /

Sacred to the memory of / Dr. Edward Neufville Chisolm /  
Son of Alexander Robert Chisolm / who was born on the 14th  
February 1805 / and died / on the 1st September 1836 /

Within this tomb lie the remains of / Mary Bull wife of John  
Bull / a much beloved and lamented parent / who died Septem-  
ber 1771 / aged 69 years /

Under this lies the body / of Mary Middleton / a pious Chris-  
tian / an affectionate wife / a tender mother a dutiful / daugh-  
ter and a sincere friend / Wife of Thomas Middleton / and  
second daughter of / Jno Bull Esq and / Mrs. Mary Bull / of  
this Parish / but / how loved how valued once avails / thee not  
To whom related / or by whom begot A heap of dust alone re-  
mains of thee / Tis all thou art, all the Proud / shall be / She  
died February the 2nd 1760 in the 37th year of her age /

Evelyn / infant son of / C. E. & Mary Leverett / died August  
1849 / Not lost—only gone before /

Stephen Habersham / son of / Stephen & Charlotte Elliott /  
born March 11. 1856 / died Sept 8 1862 /

Sacred to the memory of / Henry M. Fuller / born January 19  
1835 / died Sept 23 1890 /

Sacred to the memory of / Dr William Fuller / Son of Wm  
& M L Guerard Fuller / died July 14 1902 / aged 73 years /

In memory of Anna W. / wife of Dr W Fuller / who died / June  
2 1887 / aged 56 years / and her two sons W H and John / Steel  
who died in 1867 /

[Prostrated]

Sacred to the memory of / Daniel Heyward Esqr / who departed this life / the 8th November 1831 / aged twenty four / years / lamented by his relatives / and acquaintances / lament (stone broken) his affectionate widow.

In memory of Mrs. Rebecca / Saltus who departed / this life the 28th / March 1832 / aged 61 years.

[Heyward Lot]

In memory / of / James Cuthbert Heyward / who died May 1851 / in the 6th year of his age /

In memory of Charlotte Hanckel / wife of Allan S. Hanckel / died February 21st. A D 1860 / in the 22nd year of her age / "And they shall be mine saith / the Lord of Hosts in that day / when I make up my jewels / Mal. III XVII./

In memory of / John Heyward / second son of / Daniel & Anna Heyward / who died July 1844 / in the fifth year of his age / I'll weep no tears upon the grave / where lies my darling out of sight / God has but taken what He gave / And made my child a seraph bright / He early tastes the promised bliss / And shall I, can I, weep for this /

In memory / of / Daniel Heyward / (planter) / born April 8th 1810 / died Sept 27 1888 / And now Lord what is my life? / Truly my hope is even in Thee /

In memory of Ann Bull Heyward / wife of Daniel Heyward / who died / October 4th 1851 in the 38th year / of her age /